

XP-1051

PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A slip sheet capture mechanism cooperating with a plate cassette having a stack of printing plates each separated by a slip sheet, the slip sheet capture mechanism comprising:

a foot for holding a portion of ~~the~~ a slip sheet; and

~~a nip roller for engaging and drawing the slip sheet in the direction of the foot and into a nip.~~

a drive roller and a follower roller forming a nip whereby the drive roller engages and rotates along a planar top surface of the slip sheet to fold and draw a portion of the planar top surface into the nip between the rollers in a direction tangential to an intersection of the drive and follower rollers, causing the nip to grip the slip sheet,

whereby the plate cassette is thereafter lowered away from the slip sheet capture mechanism, and a pivot arm moves both the slip sheet capture mechanism and the slip sheet attached thereto along an arcuate path.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

XP-1051

PATENT

9. (currently amended) A method for capturing a slip sheet, the method comprising:

~~holding a portion of the slip sheet with a foot; and~~

~~engaging and drawing the slip sheet in the direction of the foot and into a nip;~~

raising a cassette housing printing plates, each plate separated by a slip sheet, so that a top slip sheet comes into contact with both a foot for holding a portion of the slip sheet and a drive roller;

rotating the drive roller along a planar top surface of the top slip sheet to fold and draw a portion of the planar top surface into a nip between the drive roller and a follower roller in a direction tangential to an intersection of the drive and follower rollers, causing the nip to grip the slip sheet;

lowering the cassette away from the slip sheet; and

moving the drive roller, the follower roller, the foot, and the top slip sheet over an arcuate path to remove the top slip sheet from the cassette.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)